

Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** the City Of Donaldsonville, situated on the west bank of the Mississippi River at its juncture with Bayou Lafourche, began as a trading post known as La Fourche des Tchitimacha about 1720; and
- WHEREAS,** with the gathering at this place of French Creoles, Alsace-Lorraine Germans, African Slaves, and Indians of the Houma tribe, it evolved into the early settlement called La Fourche by 1750; and
- WHEREAS,** with the arrival of Spanish Creoles, exiled Acadians, Canary Island Islenos, and the founding of the Ascension Church Parish, it became known as L'Ascension by 1780; and
- WHEREAS,** with the advancement in Sugar Cane farming, Cattle ranching, the Seafood and Dry Goods Businesses, the region around the future city of Donaldsonville became known as the Golden Coast, and the Center of Creole Civilization by 1800; and
- WHEREAS,** with the signing of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase, and the great migration of the English into the Louisiana Territory, the Golden Coast grew rapidly in popularity as a Destination of the region; and
- WHEREAS,** with the arrival of William Donaldson, and his purchase of the parts of this settlement from the estate of the Acadian, Pierre Landry, the modern, Creole-American town, Ville de Donaldson, was envisioned to rise by 1806; and
- WHEREAS,** Donaldson, having partnered with Barthelemy Lafon, the architect and compatriot of Jean Lafitte, to design a worthy city plan whereby each of the Streets and Places were named for the original counties of the Orleans Territory, the Tribes of the region, French leaders, Colonial settlers, Waterways, and the original Territory, the city was then founded in the heart of Plantation Country, and rose to become Donaldsonville; and
- WHEREAS,** Donaldsonville served as the Capital of Louisiana between 1829 and 1831, and with the arrival of Italian, Irish, Hebrew, Asian, and Syrian immigrants, then witnessed the wealth and power of the Ante-Bellum South by 1860; and
- WHEREAS,** Donaldsonville became the site of the 1863 Civil War, Battle of Fort Butler, for control of the Mississippi, where this desperately-contested, historic fight showcased the African Slave's determination for Freedom in the construction and victorious defense of the Union Stronghold known as Fort Butler; and
- WHEREAS,** despite the destruction, desolation, disease, death, and terrible years of want that followed, Donaldsonville rose to become a gateway of trade and commerce to the Lafourche Territory and Lower Louisiana by 1900; and
- WHEREAS,** despite the great socio-economic difficulties that developed with the closing of Bayou Lafourche, and the wars, depressions, floods, and diseases that would follow into the 20th Century, Donaldsonville continued to advance, resiliently, as the True American Treasure it is; and
- WHEREAS,** after more than 200 years of building, developing, and advancing, Donaldsonville remains a place of substantial community, culture, and heritage that merits celebrating its Bicentennial Founding Date of April 28, 1806.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim April 28, 2006, to be

THE DONALDSONVILLE BICENTENNIAL

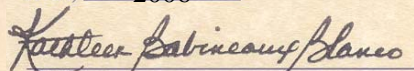
in the State of Louisiana.



Attest By
The Governor


Secretary of State

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set
my hand officially and caused to be affixed the
Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the
Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this
the 4th day of April
A.D., 2006.


Governor of Louisiana